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WORLD CONSUMPTION TRENDS IN MEAT

During 1954 meat consumption per person rose in most countries and for the world as a whole reached the highest level in recent years. The large meat consumption reflects greater meat production in most of the important producing countries and relatively favorable meat prices to consumers. However, in a number of countries smaller supplies and higher prices resulted in reduced consumption in 1954.

Meat production in the 42 countries of the world for which detailed production estimates were prepared in 1954, totaled 3 percent above 1953 and around 20 percent greater than prewar. This production accounted for perhaps 93 percent of the world output, exclusive of China. The gain in meat output since prewar has been greater than the increase in the human population. Hence, average meat consumption per person was somewhat above prewar.

Per-capita meat consumption during 1954 was greater than a year earlier in 16 of the 28 countries for which detailed consumption estimates have been prepared. Per-capita civilian consumption in the United States dropped slightly in 1954 and consumption per person in Argentina, Uruguay, the Union of South Africa, Cuba, Austria, Switzerland and the United Kingdom was below 1953. Apparently little change occurred in Portugal and Finland.

Consumption has shown divergent trends for different countries. In the important countries of North America it continues at high levels. Production has been increasing in Canada for several years and consumption has also increased. Per-capita consumption in 1954 was moderately above the average for 1946-50 and the prewar average. Consumption in Mexico increased slightly in 1954 and was at about the 1946-50 average. Consumption was not maintained in Cuba during 1954 at the level of the year earlier and was below the postwar average.

Although meat consumption in a number of European countries has increased sharply since the end of World War II, consumption in the United Kingdom declined slightly in 1954 from the 121 pounds per person consumed in 1953 and was still below the average of 124 pounds in prewar. Production in Denmark continued at high levels but consumption in 1954 was considerably below the prewar average. Meat consumption in France has increased markedly in recent years and is much above prewar. Consumption in the Republic of Germany has been increasing in recent years but the 96 pounds per person consumed in 1954 was still considerably below the prewar average of 113 pounds. Although consumption in Greece has been rising it is still below prewar. Consumption was below prewar in Yugoslavia, Norway, Switzerland, Portugal and the Netherlands.

Per-capita consumption in both Argentina and Uruguay during 1954 was below a year earlier and below prewar. Uruguay continued to have the highest consumption of any country in the world with 232 pounds. Argentina, with 182 pounds, was the fourth largest.

The Union of South Africa last year had difficulty in supplying adequate supplies of meat at the controlled prices. Severe drought in 1954 contributed to the decrease in meat production.

Meat consumption per person rose sharply in Australia and New Zealand last year. Relatively high prices for meat in recent years and large exports have held consumption below their prewar averages, despite the large production. Australians ranked second in the world in meat consumption per capita during 1954. New Zealand had the third largest consumption rate.

MEAT 1/: Summary of production, net trade and apparent consumption in specified areas in 1954, with comparisons

Continent or Area 2/	Production			Net Trade			Apparent Consumption		
	: Average:	: 1946-50:	: 1953:	: Average:	: 1946-50:	: 1953 :	: Average:	: 1946-50:	: 1953 :
	: Million:	: Million:	: Million:	: Million:	: Million:	: Million:	: Million:	: Million:	: Million:
	: Pounds	: Pounds	: Pounds	: Pounds	: Pounds	: Pounds	: Pounds	: Pounds	: Pounds
N. America	25,766	28,277	29,076	- 511	✓ 212	✓ 249	25,260	28,629	29,217
Europe	15,057	21,682	23,036	✓ 3,207	✓ 1,943	✓ 1,486	18,264	23,625	24,522
S. America	9,309	8,878	8,359	- 1,731	- 861	- 1,118	7,578	8,017	7,241
U. of S. Africa	917	959	941	✓ 12	✓ 10	- 4	929	969	937
Oceania	3,338	3,812	3,928	- 1,273	- 1,556	- 1,479	2,065	2,256	2,449
Total Above	54,387	63,608	65,340	- 296	- 252	- 866	54,096	63,496	64,366

1/ Carcass meat basis--includes beef, veal, pork, mutton, lamb, goat and horse meat; excludes edible offal, lard, rabbit and poultry meat. 2/ See the summary table in this circular for the countries included in this summary.

Compiled from official sources, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other United States Representatives abroad. Foreign Agricultural Service August, 1955.

There is a marked variation in meat consumption per person in different countries. These variations result from the relative prices of meat and other foods. They also reflect changes in the supply of meat, in the living standards of the people, in consumer habits and a number of other factors. As a rule those countries with the largest meat production per person lead the world in meat consumption. New Zealand produced around 610 pounds of meat per person in 1954, the largest in the world, and consumed 192 pounds per person, ranking third for all countries. Denmark ranked second in per capita meat consumption in 1954 of 357 pounds, but due to the pressure to export meat, consumption was at a considerably lower level -- 104 pounds per person.

Uruguay, Argentina and Australia also are leading meat producers and rank high in consumption per capita. In these countries meat replaces a large amount of vegetables and other foods in the diets of the people. The United Kingdom is a relatively small producer of meat per capita, but because of its industrial development and high standard of living, imports enough meat to boost its consumption to compare favorably with any country in Europe. On the average the people of Mexico and Italy consume little meat. Mexico exports more than it imports and Italy is a net importer.

MEAT 1/ Production and Consumption per person in specified countries,
Average 1946-50 and 1954

Country	: Production :		: Consumption :	
	: 1946-50 :	: 1954 :	: 1946-50 :	: 1954 :
	: (Pounds) :	: (Pounds) :	: (Pounds) :	: (Pounds) :
New Zealand	655	610	228	192
Denmark	211	357	126	104
Uruguay	321	324	219	232
Australia	275	295	212	228
Argentina	319	229	239	182
Ireland	110	159	92	95
United States	163	156	2/ 147	2/ 158
Canada	156	138	134	137
Paraguay	179	131	147	124
France	93	127	90	125
Netherlands	57	102	60	80
Sweden	93	102	97	110
West Germany	58	95	61	96
Cuba	80	71	85	75
Union of South Africa	77	70	78	70
United Kingdom	44	62	101	119
Mexico	43	43	41	41
Italy	29	40	29	41

1/ Includes beef, veal, pork, lamb, goat and horsemeat on a carcass weight basis, excludes offal, lard, rabbit and poultry meat. 2/ Civilian consumption only.

A summary of this information was published in the August 15, 1955 issue of Foreign Crops and Markets. This is one of a series of articles on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon reports of Agricultural Attaches and other U. S. representatives abroad.

MEAT 1/ CONSUMPTION IN SPECIFIED COUNTRIES, AVERAGE 1946-50, ANNUAL 1953 and 1954

Countries	Production			Net Trade			Apparent Consumption			Per Capita Consumption					
	Average 1946-50	1953 2/ 1954 2/		Average 1946-50	1953 2/ 1954 2/		Average 1946-50	1953 2/ 1954 2/		Average 1946-50	1953 2/ 1954 2/				
		Million Pounds	Million Pounds		Million Pounds	Million Pounds		Million Pounds	Million Pounds		Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	
NORTH AMERICA															
Canada 2/.....	2,053	1,985	2,095	-	74	-	20	1,699	1,911	2,075	134	129	137	96	102
Mexico.....	1,035	1,096	1,228	-	39	-	43	979	1,057	1,185	41	38	41	93	100
United States 4/.....	22,264	24,780	25,333	-	125	-	290	22,144	25,210	25,515	147	159	158	108	107
Cuba.....	414	416	420	-	24	-	22	438	451	442	85	78	75	92	83
EUROPE															
Austria 5/.....	407	679	675	-	36	-	2	443	680	673	64	98	97	153	152
Belgium.....	559	804	839	-	165	-	neg.	724	811	839	85	92	95	108	112
Denmark 6/.....	884	1,443	1,570	-	355	-	1,113	529	435	457	126	100	104	79	83
Finland.....	220	278	279	-	3	-	N.A.	223	278	279	57	67	67	118	118
France.....	3,648	5,004	5,443	-	69	-	84	3,717	4,985	5,339	90	116	125	129	139
Germany, Western.....	7/ 2,700	4,684	4,870	-	140	-	121	2,840	4,806	4,991	7/ 61	93	96	152	157
Greece.....	152	184	204	-	32	-	8	184	194	212	24	25	27	104	112
Ireland.....	327	418	466	-	53	-	188	274	241	278	92	82	95	89	103
Italy.....	1,306	1,807	1,918	-	49	-	52	1,355	1,867	1,970	29	39	41	134	141
Netherlands.....	555	1,035	1,086	-	30	-	238	585	826	848	60	79	80	132	133
Norway.....	193	222	235	-	5	-	2	198	217	233	62	65	69	105	111
Portugal.....	324	335	332	-	6	-	6	330	329	326	40	38	38	95	95
Sweden.....	637	696	737	-	30	-	54	667	711	791	97	99	110	102	113
Switzerland.....	336	446	430	-	25	-	14	361	455	444	79	93	90	118	114
United Kingdom.....	2,025	3,003	3,142	-	13,031	-	148	5,056	6,151	6,059	101	121	119	120	118
Yugoslavia.....	784	644	830	-	6	-	47	778	639	783	49	38	45	78	92
SOUTH AMERICA															
Argentina.....	5,215	4,398	4,299	-	1,309	-	886	3,906	3,720	3,413	239	202	132	85	76
Brazil 2/.....	2,695	3,000	3,033	-	133	-	14	2,562	2,996	3,047	52	54	53	104	102
Chile.....	426	422	N.A.	-	12	-	N.A.	414	422	N.A.	74	69	-	93	-
Paraguay.....	230	170	200	-	41	-	10	189	167	190	147	112	124	76	84
Uruguay.....	743	888	827	-	236	-	236	507	712	591	219	282	232	129	106
AFRICA															
Union of South Africa.....	917	959	941	-	12	-	4	929	969	937	78	74	70	95	90
OCEANIA															
Australia.....	2,137	2,591	2,652	-	491	-	604	1,646	1,895	2,048	212	215	228	101	108
New Zealand.....	1,201	1,221	1,276	-	782	-	875	419	361	401	228	176	192	77	84

1/ Carcass meat basis - includes beef, veal, pork, mutton, lamb, goat and horse meat; excludes edible offal, lard, rabbit and poultry meat. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Excludes horse meat - per capita consumption is civilian consumption only. 4/ Excludes horse meat - consumption estimates take into account changes in commercial stocks and include military consumption. Per Capita consumption is civilian consumption only. 5/ Production and consumption estimates include some game, rabbit meat and poultry. 6/ Production and trade for 1945-50 only include carcass meat equivalent of live animals exported. 7/ Averages for years 1948-50. 8/ Averages for less than 5 years. 9/ Excludes farm production and consumption. 10/ Production data are for years ending September 30.

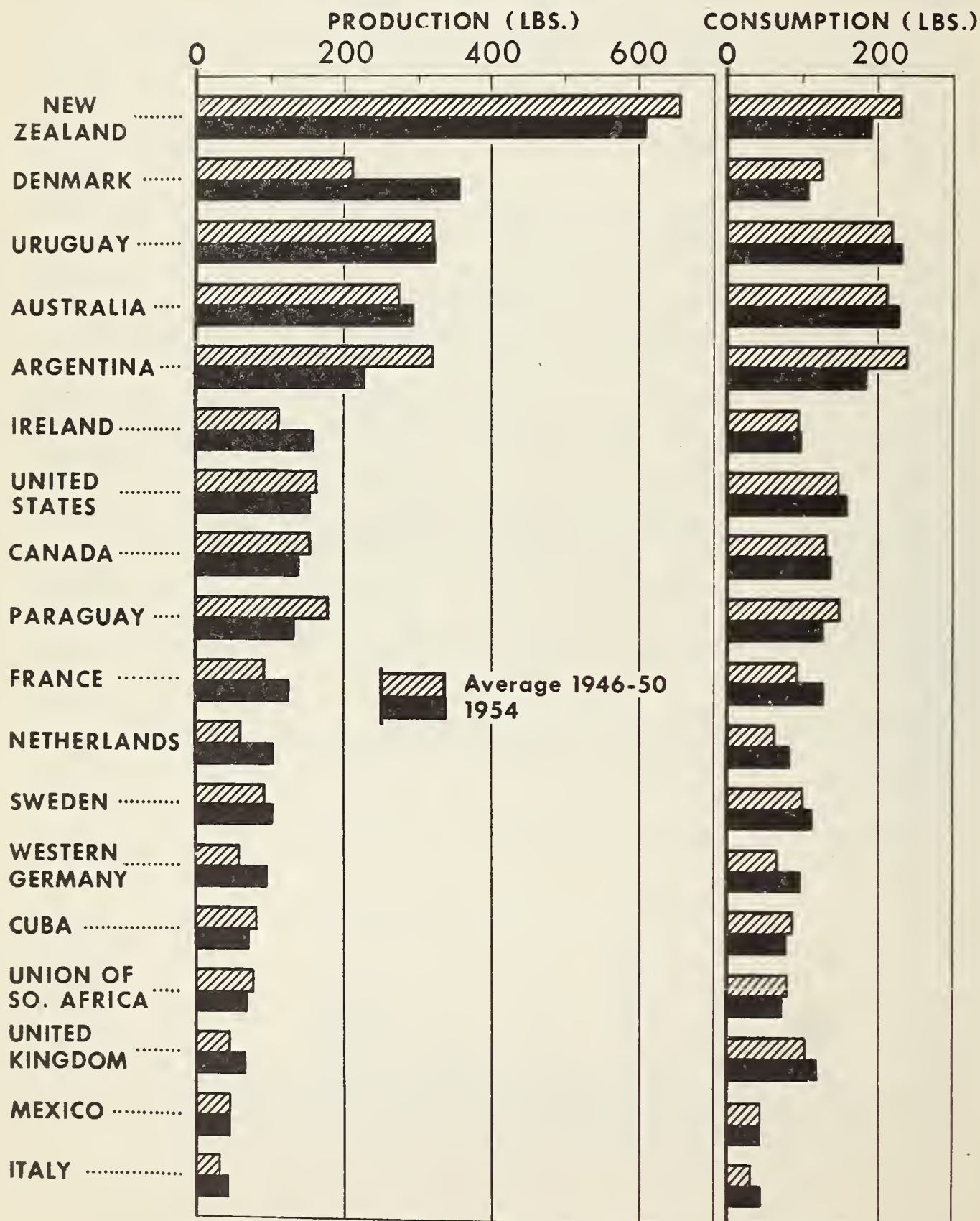
MEAT 1/ Per capita consumption in specified countries, prewar and 1946-50 averages, and annual 1947-54

Countries	Average		1946-50		1947		1948		1949		1950		1951		1952		1953		1954	
	Pounds	Founds	Pounds	Founds	Pounds	Founds	Pounds	Founds	Pounds	Founds	Pounds	Founds	Pounds	Founds	Pounds	Founds	Pounds	Founds	Pounds	Founds
Canada	113	134	139	129	133	128	129	133	133	128	129	127	129	127	129	127	129	137	137	137
Mexico	38	41	38	41	40	45	41	40	40	45	40	39	38	39	38	39	38	41	41	41
United States	126	147	153	143	143	142	143	143	143	142	136	144	159	144	159	144	159	158	158	158
Cuba	77	85	89	88	83	81	88	83	83	81	84	79	78	79	78	79	78	75	75	75
Austria	92	64	61	61	61	79	61	61	61	79	86	92	98	92	98	92	98	97	97	97
Belgium	89	85	85	82	85	83	82	85	85	83	86	91	92	91	92	91	92	95	95	95
Bulgaria 2/	54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Czechoslovakia	72	—	92	60	63	—	60	63	63	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Denmark	133	126	133	115	127	110	115	127	127	110	107	127	100	127	100	127	100	104	104	104
Finland	66	57	55	61	62	61	61	62	62	61	62	61	67	61	67	61	67	67	67	67
France	97	90	82	92	102	99	92	102	102	99	96	107	116	107	116	107	116	125	125	125
Germany, Western 3/	113	61	—	—	—	79	—	—	—	79	85	93	93	93	93	93	93	96	96	96
Greece	36	24	27	27	26	22	27	26	26	22	22	24	25	24	25	24	25	27	27	27
Hungary	69	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ireland	90	92	103	92	87	79	92	87	87	79	78	75	82	75	82	75	82	95	95	95
Italy	38	29	26	31	32	30	31	32	32	30	31	36	39	36	39	36	39	41	41	41
Netherlands	92	60	53	51	63	83	51	63	63	83	81	84	79	84	79	84	79	80	80	80
Norway	79	62	59	62	73	74	62	73	73	74	72	69	65	69	65	69	65	69	69	69
Poland 2/	44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Portugal	43	40	29	35	39	36	35	39	39	36	40	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38
Rumania 2/	42	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sweden	101	97	97	91	95	101	91	95	95	101	104	101	99	101	99	101	99	110	110	110
Switzerland	105	79	80	76	83	90	76	83	83	90	88	92	93	92	93	92	93	90	90	90
United Kingdom	124	101	106	85	94	109	85	94	94	109	86	105	121	105	121	105	121	119	119	119
Yugoslavia 2/	57	49	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	51	—	38	—	38	—	38	45	45	45
U. S. S. R. 2/	43	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Argentina	215	239	231	247	246	250	247	246	246	250	219	230	202	230	202	230	202	182	182	182
Brazil	53	52	50	52	54	53	52	54	54	53	56	54	54	54	54	54	54	53	53	53
Chile	73	74	74	74	64	66	74	64	64	66	66	70	69	70	69	70	69	69	69	69
Paraguay	162	147	—	—	—	116	—	—	—	116	—	114	112	114	112	114	112	124	124	124
Uruguay	225	219	206	226	236	231	226	236	236	231	252	265	282	265	282	265	282	232	232	232
Union of South Africa	70	78	77	82	80	75	82	80	80	75	69	71	74	71	74	71	74	70	70	70
Australia	245	212	199	221	231	218	221	231	231	218	218	211	215	211	215	211	215	228	228	228
New Zealand	212	238	222	220	230	253	220	230	230	253	228	209	176	209	176	209	176	192	192	192

1/ Carcass meat basis - includes beef, veal, pork, mutton, lamb, goat and horse meat; excludes edible offal, lard, rabbit and poultry meat.
 2/ Prewar average is for year 1935-39 for United States, Canada, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, and Sweden; 1936-38 for Greece, Rumania, Australia, New Zealand and United Kingdom; 1936 for Czechoslovakia, and 1934-38 for other countries.
 3/ Prewar territory.

MEAT*: PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION PER PERSON, SPECIFIED COUNTRIES

Average 1946-50, and 1954



*BEEF, VEAL, PORK, LAMB, GOAT AND HORSEMEAT ON A CARCASS WEIGHT BASIS.
EXCLUDES OFFAL, LARD, RABBIT AND POULTRY MEAT.